said object,

said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and tilting said at least one movable arm with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at [hole] least one movable arm.

16. (Six Times Amended, clean version) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms:

sliding in direction of said object said at least one movable arm along said support part so as to apply the contact face of said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms to clamp said object between said arms, while the force exerted by fingers or hand palms on said backs is more or less transmitted by translation against said object, which reacts and opposes a resistance increasing with the exerted pressure, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance, causing said at least one movable arm to be repulsed by said object, and therefore to tilt with respect to said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.

16. (Six Times Amended, marked-up version) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer

having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms:

sliding in direction of said object said at least one movable arm along said support part so as to apply the contact face of said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms to clamp [in direction of] said object between said arms, while the [. The] force exerted by fingers or hand palms on said backs is more or less transmitted by translation against said object, which [. This object] reacts and opposes a resistance [, which rises] increasing with the exerted pressure, and

stopping the exertion of pressure when hands feel enough resistance, causing said [. Said] at least one movable arm [is then] to be repulsed by said object, and therefore to tilt [. As a result, it tilts] with respect to said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.